7534. In English, on paper: written by Sir A. P. Cooper after 1830: $9\frac{3}{8} \times 6\frac{1}{8}$ in., 31 leaves.

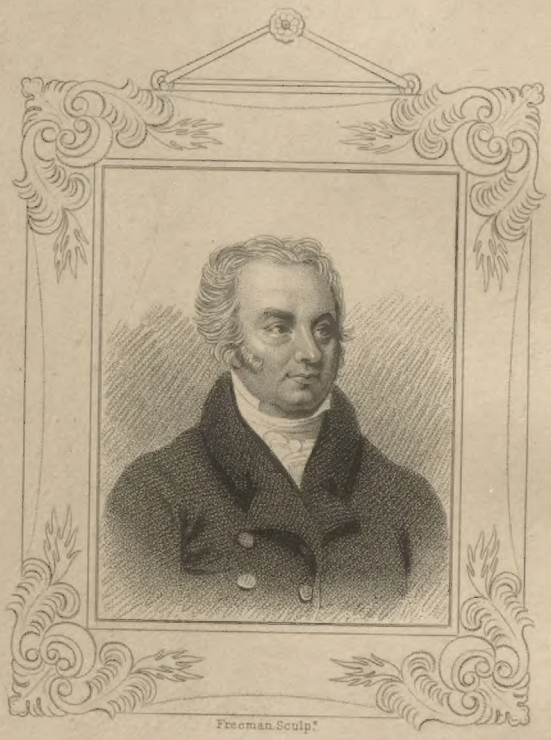
i (foll. 6–13). 'Anatomy Bill. AC'; 8 pp. of notes by Sir Astley Cooper (signed 'AC') on the difficulty of procuring bodies for dissection, with suggestions for revising the provisions of the Bill. He mentions the 'Burkings'—probably those of 1831 (see Bailey, no. 1888, p. 107). On fol. 7v is a rough anatomical sketch.

ii (foll. 20–1). Draft of a letter (beginning 'My dear Lord Duke' and signed 'AC') and of a report, both concerning Mr. Roberts's preparation for preserving anatomical material.

Fol. 3 is a proof of an engr. portrait, published 1 May, 1828. 20 leaves are blank.

Bought from Maggs Bros., Nov. 1913, catal. 317, lot 3343.

A book entitled 'Mr. Warburton's Anatomy Bill . . . with suggestions for an entirely new one, founded upon an available antiseptic process' was published by a William Roberts in 1843 (S. G. L.).



Freeman Sculp.t

SIR ASTLEY COOPER, BAR.t

Surgeon to the King, &c.

Prof.

London Published May 1. 1828 by E. Cox & Son St. Thomas's St. Southwark.

Anthony Hills

Anatomy

The supply of subjects is very unequal to y wants.
200 at Guys had one subject — or perhaps
Bethlemys supplied by itself —
St Georges by itself — Do
University & King's College very few —
Dermot famous
Granger complains of his very defective opportunities
The Bill was brought in to prevent Burking but thousands will be annually killed from the defects in education of Medical men if something be not done to prevent bodies —

2

Each Student should have 2 bodies or 1600 bodies upon a Whole but half that number would suffice.

The Cause of the difficulty arises from the inability of his Lector to procure bodies — —

He has no weight with the Parish Officers —

He has no friendship with the Parish Surgeons

He has to obtain bodies at Chelsea and to send them to y Boro

He is to be at the same time Inspector, Purveyor, and Distributor

These duties too laborious for him — very unpopularly performed as regards the second — hence the female supply

of bodies - irregularities in the
Distribution -
The Expence is thrown upon the
Inspector and the more bodies
he procures the less are his
Gains & thus there is a premium
upon a small supply -
The remedies for these evils
are one of these three -
The first and the best
would be that each School
should obtain its own
supply under the Govern
ment Inspector. -
The Result of this law would be
that the influence of heads
of Schools would enable
them to procure an adequate
supply for the neighbouring parishes
& and that the old System
would be prevented by the
Inspector - Guy Granger
Dr Dennis

A Second Mode would be
to ~~give~~ Restore the Royal
College of Surgeons to the Exclusive
appointment of Surveyors, who
shall still be his Duty
in preserving the distribution
and Order of Dissecting
Rooms. The College of Surgeons
~~has~~ obtaining a Register of
of Pupils — —

A Third mode would be
Government appointing
the Surveyors —
This is the least eligible
plan as the Surveyors
appointed by Government
would have no influence
with the Medical Men

The moral influence the profession is very considerable & the 1st & 2d would work well - (with [illegible])

The Surveyors should be give their pay from the Schools and they each should be respectable men and Surgeons not yet engaged in Practice to each of whom from 100 to 150 £ per annum might be given -

Eight hundred bodies at 3 Guineas each would give 2400 - which would pay the expences of procuring & distributing bodies as well and salary of the Instructor -

8.

If a Parish prefers to send its bodies to a particular School it is the duty of the Inspectors to observe an equal distribution —

The duties of Inspector shall be entirely separated from those of the Surveyors. It will be his duty to see that there is an equal distribution — that the Dissections are decently conducted and that the funerals are performed according

to the Act
The Expenses of Education
should not be thrown
upon the Government but
they should be paid
out of the Price of Books
by the Heads of Schools
who should register
their wants and deposit
at the price of the
Subject with the Secretary
The Surgeons of Paris has
thrown all the Obstacles
they can in the way of
the Inspector who is a
Stranger to them & placed
in an Authority they and

not disposed to acknowledge —

£

Autograph

OF

Born *Died*

3343 **COOPER** (Sir Astley P., 1768-1841). Famous Surgeon. **ORIGINAL AUTOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT SIGNED** (initials), being very full notes written out by him, evidently of an intended Lecture on the **PROCURATION OF HUMAN BODIES FOR ANATOMICAL DISSECTION.** Contained on 7¼ pp., sm. 8vo. N.D., 1829–32. £3 10s

A valuable Medical manuscript by one of England's most famous Surgeons. In it the writer sets out in detail the difficulties experienced by Hospitals and Students in obtaining bodies, and he then proceeds to suggest various remedies.

The whole paper has reference to a Bill before Parliament, following on the celebrated trial and execution of William Burke in Edinburgh, who with William Hare smothered people for the purpose of selling their dead bodies to the medical schools. The writer makes reference to this in the manuscript.

"The Bill was brought in to prevent 'Burking,' but thousands will be annually killed from the deficient education of Medical men if something be not done to procure bodies."

*** The Anatomy Act of 1832 provided that the bodies of unclaimed dead should be handed over to medical schools for the purpose of instruction.

'HS,

My dear Lord Duke

The Experiment was made at Guy's Hospital of endeavouring to preserve bodies by Mr Roberts Composition and the result is as follows

He attempted to preserve four Bodies by his new composition which became decomposed and were buried without Dissection. JB

So that the Experiment fails in preserving whole bodies altho it appears to succeed with small portions of them —

AC

We &c &c

have witnessed the Effects of a Mixture employed by Mr Roberts for preserving animal bodies from putrefaction. We are convinced that Mr R's preparation is capable of keeping in a fresh sweet & inoffensive state the flesh of animals & we think it may become of important use to Surgeons & Students of Anatomy & that it may be made to promote Medical Research & advancement.

We should be glad if means can be devised by which this discovery may be rendered available to the Profession without obliging Mr

Immediately. Tell the rest especially boys
Wakeful Night

This will confirm Guy's ownership in the very unlikely event of my medical daughter or her heirs ever claiming it!!

I return herewith the enlarged inscription, certified on the back, but am gratefully retaining the other photo to file with the rest of Edward Osler's notes on Cooper's lectur es (no. 7604 in "Bibliotheca Osleriana", Oxford, 1919, p. 882).

It is good to hear from various sources of the prosperous resurrection of the Osler Club.

Yours sincerely,

W. W. Francis, M.D.,
Librarian.

WWF:cd
Encl:-

OSLER LIBRARY,
4 March, 1953.

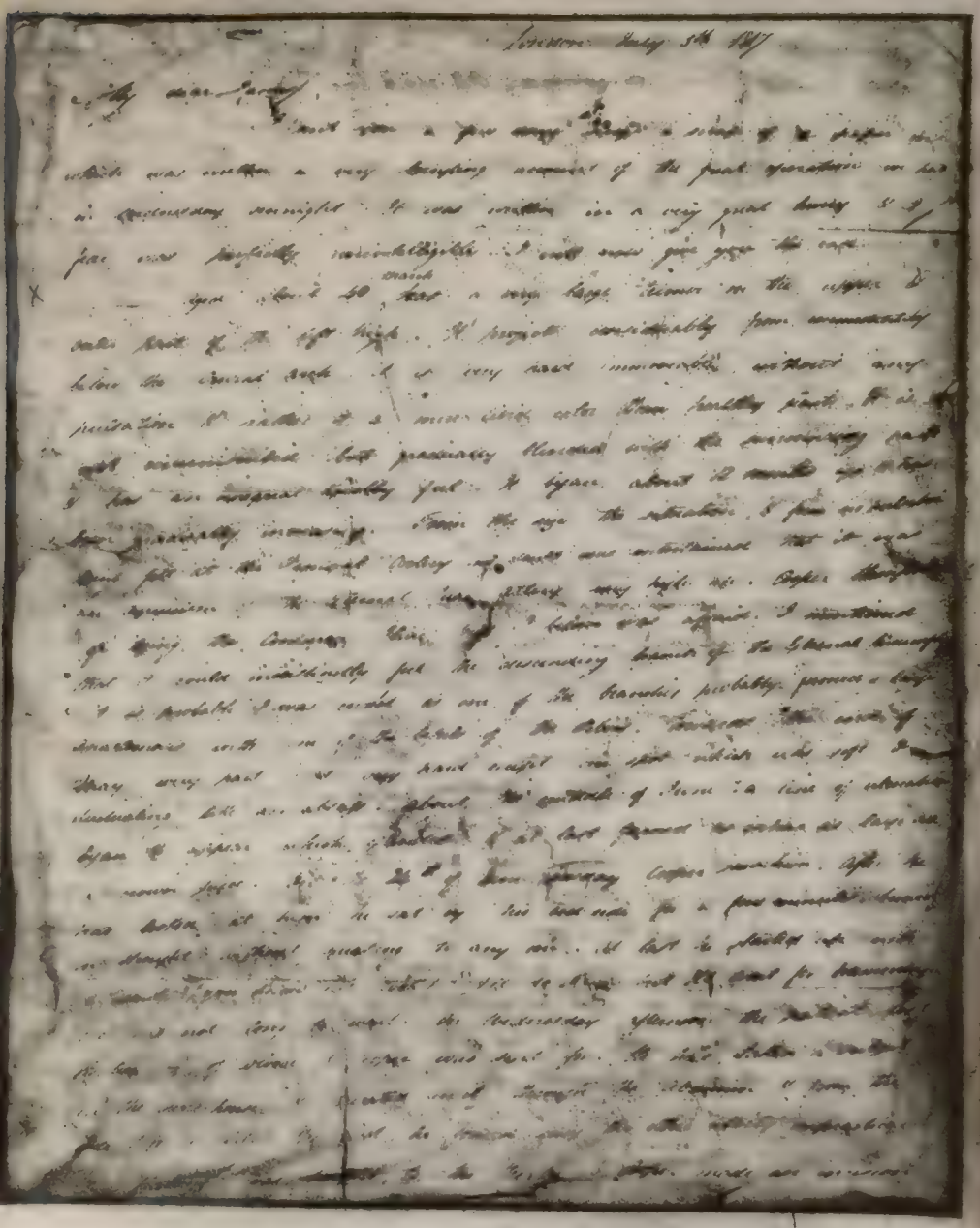
R. C. Brock, Esq., M.S., F.R.C.S.,
Guy's Hospital,
S.E. 1,
London,
England.

Dear Mr. Brock,

Yes, that sub-scription is certainly in Sir William's hand, though "writ large", with unusual care, and with a positively uncanny profusion of crossed t's and dotted i's. I can even swear to the genuineness of the last line, in spite of the three medial "Greek" e's (see and Gazette); they drove me to one of his manuscripts in which I find two of them in three closely written pages.

The following might but must not be added to the inscription: And with the hearty acquiescence (after the fact!) of the real owner, Dr. W. W. Francis, grandson of E. O. and infinitely W. O.'s debtor.

Highlight; and inserted in the Osler Library by his nephew, Sir William Osler. July 5. 1919.
see. Guy's Hospital Gazette. 8. viii. 11



Account of Sir Astley Cooper's case of ligature of the abdominal Aorta July 5. 1817, written by Edward Osler, a student of the United Hospitals; and presented to the Welles Library by his nephew, Sir William Osler. July 5. 1917.

see. Guys Hospital Gazette. 8. VII. 11

31 (alt.)